



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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HIGHLIGHTS

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May 1 Crop Production Forecast

Based on May 1 conditions, Montana winter wheat producers expect a yield of 34 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels from last year's final yield. Total production is expected to be 88.4 million bushels, up 6 percent from last year's 83.2 million bushels. In the fall of 2007, Montana producers seeded 2.7 million acres of winter wheat, up 460,000 acres from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 2.6 million acres, 410,000 acres above 2007.

As of May 4, Montana's winter wheat crop was rated below a year ago with 10 percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 33 percent good, and 4 percent excellent compared with 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 21 percent excellent a year ago. More moisture and warmer weather is needed this spring for crop development as 2 percent of the acreage has reached the

boot stage compared with 4 percent last year and 2 percent for the five-year average.

On May 1, Montana hay producers held an estimated 1.03 million tons of hay on hand, 35 percent above stocks on hand a year ago. Hay production for 2007 was 5.15 million tons, 19 percent higher than 2006 production. Disappearance from December 1, 2007 to May 1, 2008 totaled 3.48 million tons, up 4 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.78 billion bushels, up 17 percent from 2007. Expected area for harvest as grain or seed totals 40.2 million acres, up 12 percent from last year. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.3 bushels per acre, up 2.1 bushels from the previous year.

Hard Red production is up 5 percent from a year ago to 1.01 billion bushels. Soft Red production is up 54 percent and totals 551 million bushels. White production totals 215 million bushels, up 10 percent from a year ago. Of the White production total, 23.2 million bushels are Hard White and 192 million bushels are Soft White.

All hay stored on farms May 1, 2008 totaled 21.6 million tons, up 44 percent

from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2007- May 1, 2008 totaled 82.4 million tons, 1 percent more than the disappearance of 81.5 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

Hay stocks increased from last year throughout the entire Great Plains, the Delta, most of the Southeast, and the Rocky Mountain States. Hay stocks increased significantly in Texas and Oklahoma where weather conditions during the 2007 growing season nearly doubled hay production and improved pasture conditions throughout the year.

Lower 2007 hay production in most States east of the Mississippi River, except in the Southeast, held May 1, 2008 hay stocks below a year ago. The largest declines occurred in Kentucky, Minnesota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. In Kentucky and Tennessee where stocks are less than half of the previous year, production was down due to the April 2007 freeze and dry summer weather, so some producers resorted to hauling hay in from other States. Wisconsin's May 1 hay stocks are at a record low level while Tennessee recorded the lowest May 1 hay stock level since 1962.

Winter Wheat Acreage, Yield, and Production by Selected States and U.S., 2007 and Forecast May 1, 2008

State	Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
CO	2,350	2,100	40.0	32.0	94,000	67,200
ID	710	840	73.0	72.0	51,830	60,480
KS	8,600	9,400	33.0	38.0	283,800	357,200
KY	250	450	49.0	66.0	12,250	29,700
MT	2,190	2,600	38.0	34.0	83,220	88,400
NE	1,960	1,850	43.0	44.0	84,280	81,400
OK	3,500	4,500	28.0	33.0	98,000	148,500
OR	735	760	55.0	60.0	40,425	45,600
SD	1,980	1,750	48.0	44.0	95,040	77,000
TX	3,800	3,400	37.0	29.0	140,600	98,600
US	35,952	40,162	42.2	44.3	1,515,989	1,777,532

2007 Meat Animals Production, Disposition, and Income

Cash receipts from the 2007 marketings of cattle, hogs, and sheep in Montana totaled \$1.0 billion, down 12 percent from 2006. Cash receipts for hogs were up from the previous year, but cattle and sheep cash receipts were down.

Cash receipts from the sales of cattle and calves during 2007 were down 12 percent from 2006 to \$981.1 million. Marketings of cattle weighing 500 lbs or more, at 1.26 million head, were down 14 percent from 2006. Marketings of calves weighing less than 500 lbs increased 10 percent from the previous year to 225,000 head. The average price received in 2007 for cattle weighing over 500 lbs decreased \$4.00 per cwt to \$89.80 per cwt. Market year average price for calves weighing less than 500 lbs decreased \$8.00 per cwt to \$123.00 per cwt. The January 1, 2008 value of cattle and calf inventory was \$2.8 billion, up 11 percent from 2007.

Cash receipts from the sale of hogs in Montana rose 4 percent from 2006 to \$39.2 million. Marketings of hogs and pigs rose 4 percent from the previous year to 327,800 head. The average price received for hogs was unchanged at \$47.90 per cwt. The value of the hog and pig inventory on December 1, 2007 was \$13.9 million, down 17 percent from the previous year.

Sheep and lamb cash receipts in Montana were down 4 percent from the previous year to \$20.0 million. Marketings of sheep and lambs in 2007 were 49,000 and 199,500 head, respectively. Sheep marketings were down 4,000 head from last year and lamb marketings were down 4,500 head. The average price for lambs dropped \$1.00 to \$101.00 per cwt and sheep were \$1.80 below last year at \$23.90 per cwt. The January 1, 2008 sheep and lamb inventory value was \$37.4 million, down 2 percent from 2007.

The U.S. 2007 gross income from the sales of cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs for the U.S.

totaled \$65.5 billion, up 2 percent from 2006. Gross income increased for cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs. Cattle and calves increased 1 percent, hogs and pigs increased 5 percent, and sheep and lambs increased slightly.

Total 2007 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals increased 2 percent to \$65.0 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 76 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 23 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production decreased for all cattle and calves and sheep and lambs. Production increased for hogs and pigs. Average prices were up for cattle, hogs and pigs, and lambs, while calf and sheep prices were down.

Cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves increased 2 percent from \$49.0 billion in 2006 to \$49.7 in 2007. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 54.8 billion pounds in 2007, up slightly from 2006. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was \$89.90, an increase of \$2.70 from 2006. For calves, the annual average price decreased from \$133.00 to \$119.00 per cwt.

Cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled \$14.8 billion during 2007, up 5 percent from 2006. Marketings totaled 30.3 billion pounds in 2007, up 4 percent from 2006. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight increased from \$46.00 in 2006 to \$46.60 in 2007.

Cash receipts from marketings of sheep and lambs in 2007 were \$492 million, down slightly from 2006. Marketings decreased one percent to 575 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for sheep decreased from \$35.20 in 2006 to \$31.00 in 2007. For lambs, the annual average price increased from \$95.50 to \$98.50 per cwt.

2007 Milk Production, Disposition, and Income

Montana's dairies produced 333 million pounds of milk in 2007, down 6 percent from 2006. There was an average of

18,000 milk cows on farms and ranches during the year, down 1,000 head from the previous year. The average number of pounds produced per cow in 2007 was 18,500 pounds, 132 pounds below 2006.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana were \$61.1 million dollars, up 35 percent from 2006. Producers received an average of \$18.70 per cwt, an increase of \$5.60 per cwt from last year. Total marketings of milk, at 327 million pounds, were down 6 percent from a year ago. A total of 6 million pounds of milk were used on farms and ranches, unchanged from 2006. Of the total, 3 million pounds were fed to calves and 3 million pounds were consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

In the United States, cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2007 totaled \$35.4 billion, 51.4 percent higher than 2006. Producer returns averaged \$19.21 per hundredweight, 48.2 percent above 2006. Marketings totaled 184 billion pounds, 2.1 percent above 2006. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers and milk sold directly to consumers.

Milk production in 2007 increased 2.1 percent to 186 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 20,267 pounds, was 316 pounds above 2006. The annual average number of milk cows on farms was 9.16 million head, up 46,000 head from 2006.

An estimated 1.17 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 1.0 percent more than 2006. Calves were fed 87 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

2007 Poultry Production and Value

Montana's value of egg production in 2007 was \$8.1 million, up almost double from last year. Egg production in 2007 totaled 107 million eggs, up 3 percent from the previous year. The average price for eggs was \$0.904 per dozen, up from \$0.465 per dozen in 2006. (continued on back page)

March Agricultural Prices Received

Montana crop prices for the full month of March 2008 were mostly higher when compared with the previous month. The March to February price comparisons are: winter wheat was \$8.26 per bushel, up \$0.95, spring wheat rose \$0.18 to \$8.84 per bushel, and durum wheat increased \$3.20 to \$14.40 per bushel, setting a new record high. Feed barley prices decreased \$0.23 to \$4.49 per bushel and malt barley decreased \$0.11 to \$4.15 per bushel.

The mid-April price for alfalfa hay was unchanged from March at \$89.00 per ton, but all other hay increased \$5.00 to \$84.00 per ton. Mid-April grain prices were mixed when compared with March 2008. Winter wheat was \$9.77 per bushel, up \$1.51, spring wheat was \$10.20 per bushel, up \$1.36, durum wheat was \$12.50 per bushel, down \$1.90, feed barley was \$4.16 per bushel, down \$0.33, and malt barley was \$5.13 per bushel, up \$0.98.

Livestock prices for the full month of March 2008 were mostly lower when compared with February 2008. March to February price comparisons are: steers and heifers decreased \$5.20 to \$96.80 per cwt, cows decreased \$1.50 per cwt to \$51.20, beef cattle decreased \$2.30 to \$91.30 per cwt, calves were unchanged at \$120.00 per cwt, sheep were down \$1.30 to \$19.50 per cwt, lambs dropped \$10.80 to \$99.20 per cwt, and milk decreased \$1.90 to \$19.40 per cwt. The mid-April prices were: steers and heifers were \$101.00 per cwt, cows were \$49.80 per cwt, beef cattle were \$90.20 per cwt, calves were \$114.00 per cwt, and milk was \$17.30 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for March 2008 and changes from February were: winter wheat was \$10.00 per bushel, up \$1.03, spring wheat was \$11.00 per bushel, down \$0.10, durum wheat was \$15.40 per bushel, up \$1.90, all barley was \$4.17 per bushel, down \$0.22, steers and heifers were \$92.70 per cwt, down

\$1.50, cows were \$51.20 per cwt, down \$0.20, beef cattle were \$87.70 per cwt, down \$1.30, calves were \$119.00 per cwt, down \$1.00, sheep were \$28.30 per cwt, down \$1.60, lambs were \$98.00 per cwt, up \$1.20, and all milk was \$18.10 per cwt, down \$1.00.

The U.S. mid-April prices were: winter wheat was \$9.26 per bushel, spring wheat was \$10.90 per bushel, durum wheat was \$12.60 per bushel, all wheat was \$10.10 per bushel, malt barley was \$4.62 per bushel, and feed barley was \$4.28 per bushel, steers and heifers were \$90.10 per cwt, cows were \$49.90 per cwt, beef cattle were \$85.10 per cwt, calves were \$115.00 per cwt, all milk was \$18.00 per cwt, all hogs were \$40.60 per cwt, and all eggs were \$1.16 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 11 points (8.3 percent) from April 2008. The Food Commodities Index, at 140, decreased 5 points (3.4 percent) from last month but increased 5 points (3.7 percent) from April 2008.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	March 2007	April 2007	March 2008	April 2008
Prices Received	131	133	146	144
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	159	160	178	181
Ratio 2/	82	83	82	80
1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.				

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change from Previous		Mid-Month Avg	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Mar 2007	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Mar 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2007	15-Apr-08	15-Apr-08
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu	4.65	7.31	8.26	10.00	0.95	3.61	9.77	9.26
Durum Wheat	Bu	5.37	11.20	14.40	15.40	3.20	9.03	12.50	12.60
Spring Wheat	Bu	4.75	8.66	8.84	11.00	0.18	4.09	10.20	10.90
All Wheat	Bu	4.74	8.01	8.73	10.60	0.72	3.99	10.10	10.10
All Barley	Bu	3.28	4.39	4.23	4.17	-0.16	0.95	4.90	4.53
Feed Barley	Bu	3.01	4.72	4.49	4.22	-0.23	1.48	4.16	4.28
Malt Barley	Bu	3.32	4.26	4.15	4.16	-0.11	0.83	5.13	4.62
Oats	Bu	2.32	na	na	3.44	na	na	na	3.59
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	95.00	78.00	89.00	143.00	11.00	-6.00	89.00	157.00
All Other Hay	Ton	99.00	82.00	79.00	128.00	-3.00	-20.00	84.00	140.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	95.00	78.00	88.00	139.00	10.00	-7.00	88.00	152.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	102.00	102.00	96.80	92.70	-5.20	-5.20	101.00	90.10
Cows	Cwt	47.60	52.70	51.20	51.20	-1.50	3.60	49.80	49.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	91.10	93.60	91.30	87.70	-2.30	0.20	90.20	85.10
Calves	Cwt	125.00	120.00	120.00	119.00	0.00	-5.00	114.00	115.00
Sheep	Cwt	31.80	20.80	19.50	28.30	-1.30	-12.30	na	na
Lambs	Cwt	101.00	110.00	99.20	98.00	-10.80	-1.80	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	15.00	21.30	19.40	18.10	-1.90	4.40	17.30	18.00

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. na-not available.

2007 Poultry Production and Value (continued from page two)

The U.S. value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 2007 was \$50.8 million, down 6 percent from the \$53.8 million a year ago. Prices averaged 5.6

cents per pound, compared with 5.8 cents in 2006. The number of chickens sold in 2007 totaled 167 million, down 3 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

Value of all egg production in 2007 was

\$6.68 billion, up 51 percent from the \$4.43 billion in 2006. Egg production totaled 90.6 billion eggs, down 1 percent from the 91.3 billion eggs produced in 2006. In 2007, all eggs averaged 88.5 cents per dozen, compared with 58.2 cents in 2006.

Chickens and Eggs: Production, Sales, and Value, 2006-2007 1/

Item	Unit	Montana		United States	
		2006	2007	2006	2007
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	1,000 Head	74	72	101,078	100,663
Sold	1,000 Head	105	108	172,748	167,249
Pounds Sold	1,000 Lbs	326	400	918,977	906,809
Average Price	Dollars/Lb	0.006	0.006	0.058	0.056
Value of Sales	1,000 Dols	2	2	53,754	50,783
EGGS					
Produced	Million	104	107	91,328	90,581
Average Price	Dollars/Doz	0.465	0.904	0.582	0.885
Value of Prod.	1,000 Dols	4,031	8,059	4,431,745	6,678,147
1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1 of previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers. 2/ Includes death, rendered, and other losses during the 12-month period.					

Upcoming Ag Survey: USDA to Gather Data on Crop Acreage and Stocks

How many acres of wheat have Montana farmers planted this year? How has the bio-fuels boom influenced the balance of crop acres? The June Agricultural Survey, conducted by the Montana Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), will help answer these and other critical questions about the production and supply of major crops for 2008.

"The June Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey, is the most important survey conducted each spring by NASS," explained Peggy Stringer, Director of the NASS Montana Field Office. "This survey will provide the first clear indication of the potential production and supply of

major commodities in Montana and the United States for the 2008 crop year."

There is always speculation about each new crop season, but farmers are the main source of facts. "Speculation about the number of acres planted and weather during the growing season can lead to unjustified swings in market prices. The June Agricultural Survey reduces uncertainty in the marketplace," said Ron de Yong, Director of the Montana Department of Agriculture. He added, "Producers require accurate information to make production, marketing, and investment decisions."

From May 30 until June 16, NASS will contact Montana producers by mail, telephone, or in person and ask them to provide information on what crops they planted, how much they planted, and how much they have stored on their

farms. The information will be compiled and analyzed and then published in a series of highly anticipated USDA reports, including the annual Acreage Report and quarterly Grain Stocks Report, both to be released on June 30.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state and national level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Peggy Stringer.

All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Montana Field Office at 1-800-835-2612.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks	Milk Production
Cattle on Feed	Ag Chemical Use
Cattle & Beef Cow County Estimates	Red Meat Production
	Egg Production

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